

CAPSULE AND ITS PRODUCTION

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Abstract

PURPOSE: To provide a capsule composed of a base containing a polyhydric alcohol and polysaccharides including carrageenan, soluble completely in water, exhibiting excellent flexibility, having thin wall thickness, and giving no unpleasant feeling to the palate.

CONSTITUTION: The objective capsule is composed of a base containing (A) carrageenan or a combination of $\geq 20\text{wt}\%$ carrageenan and other polysaccharides (preferably galactomannan, especially locust bean gum) and (B) a polyhydric alcohol (preferably glycerol). The capsule can be prepared by (1) dissolving the polysaccharides including carrageenan in an aqueous solution of the polyhydric alcohol having a water/alcohol ratio of 95/5-40/60, to give a solution having a concentration of $\leq 30\text{wt}\%$, preferably 0.5-15wt%, (2) forming a sheet from said solution, (3) heating the sheet above its melting point and punching the sheet in the form of a concave, and (4) welding two concaves together and drying the hollow product.